

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 1027

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SMITH.

Read 1st time January 28, 2008, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4746S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 160.410, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to charter schools.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 160.410, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.410, to read as follows:

160.410. 1. A charter school shall enroll:

2 (1) All pupils resident in the district in which it operates;

3 (2) Nonresident pupils eligible to attend a district's school under an urban  
4 voluntary transfer program; [and]

5 (3) **In the case of a charter school whose mission includes student**  
6 **drop-out prevention or recovery, a nonresident pupil from an adjacent**  
7 **county who submits a timely application; and**

8 (4) In the case of a workplace charter school, any student eligible to  
9 attend under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection whose parent is employed  
10 in the business district, who submits a timely application, unless the number of  
11 applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building. The  
12 configuration of a business district shall be set forth in the charter and shall not  
13 be construed to create an undue advantage for a single employer or small number  
14 of employers.

15 2. If capacity is insufficient to enroll all pupils who submit a timely  
16 application, the charter school shall have an admissions process that assures all  
17 applicants of an equal chance of gaining admission except that:

18 (1) A charter school may establish a geographical area around the school  
19 whose residents will receive a preference for enrolling in the school, provided that

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

20 such preferences do not result in the establishment of racially or  
21 socioeconomically isolated schools and provided such preferences conform to  
22 policies and guidelines established by the state board of education; [and]

23 (2) A charter school may also give a preference for admission of children  
24 whose siblings attend the school or whose parents are employed at the school or  
25 in the case of a workplace charter school, a child whose parent is employed in the  
26 business district or at the business site of such school; **and**

27 **(3) A charter school whose mission includes student drop-out**  
28 **prevention or recovery as described in subdivision (3) of subsection 1**  
29 **of this section shall give preference for admission to resident pupils**  
30 **over nonresident pupils.**

31 3. A charter school shall not limit admission based on race, ethnicity,  
32 national origin, disability, gender, income level, proficiency in the English  
33 language or athletic ability, but may limit admission to pupils within a given age  
34 group or grade level.

35 4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall  
36 commission a study of the performance of students at each charter school in  
37 comparison with a comparable group and a study of the impact of charter schools  
38 upon the districts in which they are located, to be conducted by a contractor  
39 selected through a request for proposal. The department of elementary and  
40 secondary education shall reimburse the contractor from funds appropriated by  
41 the general assembly for the purpose. The study of a charter school's student  
42 performance in relation to a comparable group shall be designed to provide  
43 information that would allow parents and educators to make valid comparisons  
44 of academic performance between the charter school's students and a group of  
45 students comparable to the students enrolled in the charter school. The impact  
46 study shall be undertaken every two years to determine the effect of charter  
47 schools on education stakeholders in the districts where charter schools are  
48 operated. The impact study may include, but is not limited to, determining if  
49 changes have been made in district policy or procedures attributable to the  
50 charter school and to perceived changes in attitudes and expectations on the part  
51 of district personnel, school board members, parents, students, the business  
52 community and other education stakeholders. The department of elementary and  
53 secondary education shall make the results of the studies public and shall deliver  
54 copies to the governing boards of the charter schools, the sponsors of the charter  
55 schools, the school board and superintendent of the districts in which the charter

56 schools are operated.

57           5. A charter school shall make available for public inspection, and provide  
58 upon request, to the parent, guardian, or other custodian of any school-age pupil  
59 resident in the district in which the school is located the following information:

60           (1) The school's charter;

61           (2) The school's most recent annual report card published according to  
62 section 160.522; and

63           (3) The results of background checks on the charter school's board  
64 members.

65 The charter school may charge reasonable fees, not to exceed the rate specified  
66 in section 610.026, RSMo, for furnishing copies of documents under this  
67 subsection.

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Bill

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